Yes, Madam. In order to set up Solar Thermal Power Stations in the MW range, various technology options have been studied. A project for setting up a 30,000 KW Solar Thermal power plant has already been prepared.

(b) State Governments of Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana have already shown interest in setting up such 30 MW power plants. In addition other states could also have such plants.

(c) So far no funds have been allocated for this purpose. However, the proposal is being discussed with the Planning Commission for allocation of funds.

Flaring of gas in oil fields of Gujarat

601. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of natural gas being flared daily in the fields of Gujarat and its worth at market price and how much gas out of that produced has been utilised so far;

(b) what is the total demand and availability of gas at present in Gujarat and what is the estimated demand in the next 10 years; and

(c) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd. has any plans for transporting gas for domestic and Industrial use to various parts of the State; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) During 1986-87, about 0.50 million cubic meters per day (MMCMD) was flared in Gujarat. The value of the gas flared during this period works out to about Rs. 7.00 lakhs per day, based on the Government price of Rs. 1400|1000 M^3. During 1986-87, the production of gas in this region was about 970 million cubic meters out of which about 787 million cubic meters of gas was utilised.

(b) At present the availability of gas in Gujarat Region is 2.61 MMCMD and the demand is 2.54 MMCMD. In addition a total quantity of 1.80 MMCMD of gas has been committed to various future consumers in Gujarat. As natural gas is supplied as a replacement for liquid fuels etc., no separate demand estimate for gas is prepared. Gas availability according to tentative projections is expected to go up to about 5.5 MMCMD after 10 years.

(c) GAIL have plans to supply gas to IPCL, Baroda, NTPC, Kawas & GSFC Baroda.

Intensification of exploration for crude oil

602. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to intensify exploration for sizable new discoveries of crude oil in basins hitherto left unexplored if so, what are the plans and what steps are being taken to intensify exploitation;

(b) what was the crude oil production in 1987-87 and estimated production by the end of the Seventh Plan and what is the extent of self-reliance;

(c) whether it is a fact that 75 percent of the prognosticated hydrocarbon reserves are still to be covered by drillings; if so, what efforts have been made to procure drilling rigs, imported and indigenous; and

(d) whether Government are considering to provide positive protection to Indian industry for building up efficient oil field services; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) In addition to intensive drilling in basins with proven reserves and stepping up the tempo of exploration in basins where commercial production has not been established but which are considered prospective, the present exploration strategy also envisages selecting relatively more suitable basins which have so far been poorly explored for acquisition of additional data. In addition to geological and geophysical surveys, seven para-